

Local Jubilee forecasts wherever you are with the Met Office iPhone and Android apps

Description

With the Jubilee weekend looking likely to see a typical mixture of British weather across the UK you can make sure you always have your latest local forecast to hand with our [iPhone](#) and [Android](#) apps.



Met Office iPhone and Android apps

The Met Office provides local forecasts for over 5,000 locations across the UK, so with events taking place up and down the country you will always have access to the latest weather forecast.

Latest figures from Comscore show the Met Office's apps are one of the most accessed apps in the UK. Currently positioned at number 16 in the list, it is accessed more often than apps from Amazon and Groupon.

Since its re-launch in January, more than 2 million people have downloaded the iPhone app. The new Android app has been downloaded by over 340,000 people.

Sarah Weller, Marketing Manager at [Mubaloo](#) said: "The latest stats from Comscore highlight how the Met Office's mobile channel has become a vital source of accurate and up to date weather forecasts for a huge number of people across the UK."

The iPhone App includes 3 hourly forecasts out to 5 days ahead; UV forecast maps and information on the likelihood of rain. In addition to the iPhone, we also provide an App for Android phones and Smarter Weather for other smart phones.

Date Created

June 2012

Is this stormy weather unusual for June?

Description

We've seen some particularly stormy weather across parts of the UK in the last 24 hours as heavy rain and strong winds have brought disruption particularly across the south of the UK.

The strongest winds were recorded in the early hours of Friday morning where the Needles on the Isle of Wight recorded gusts of 82 mph. Otherwise the strongest winds were across South West England with gusts around 60 to 70 mph.

UK MAX GUST SPEED 7TH TO 8TH JUNE 2012

DATE/TIME	SITE NAME	MAX GUST SPEED MILES PER HOUR
08/06/2012 05:00	WIGHT: NEEDLES OLDBATTERY	82
07/06/2012 21:00	MUMBLES HEAD	67
07/06/2012 16:00	PLYMOUTH, MOUNTBATTEN	62
07/06/2012 15:00	CULDROSE	60
07/06/2012 16:00	SCILLY: ST MARYS AIRPORT	58
08/06/2012 06:00	ISLE OF PORTLAND	58
08/06/2012 07:00	AVONMOUTH	58

UK RAINFALL 7TH TO 8TH JUNE 2012

SITE NAME	PRECIP AMOUNT (MM)
TREDEGAR, BRYN BACH PARK	53.4
USK	49.4
DUNKESWELL AERODROME	45.6
OKEHAMPTON	42.4
LISCOMBE	42.0
CARDIFF, BUTEPARK	38.6
SENNYBRIDGE	38.4
MUMBLES HEAD	37.6
GLENANNE NO 2	35.4

KILLOWEN

34.6

Whilst this type of weather may seem unseasonable for early summer you only have to take a look through the Met Office observations records to see that stormy weather in the summer is not all that unusual.

The most comparable storm we have seen recently was only in 2010. The 15th July saw a complex area of low pressure over the UK bring wet and windy weather across South Wales and South West England. The highest gusts recorded were 84 mph at Aberdaron in North Wales. Elsewhere, winds gusted to between 60 and 70 mph widely across the south west of the UK.

Before this, the 23rd June 2004 saw another area of low pressure bring stormy weather across the UK. The strength of the winds during this storm were very similar once again with the strongest winds being seen at the Needles on the Isle of Wight where gusts of 84 mph, whilst gusts of 60 to 70 mph were recorded across South West England and South Wales.

You can get the [latest weather forecast](#) and [weather warnings](#) on the Met Office website

Related articles

- [Gale-Force Gusts And Flooding Set To Batter UK](#) (news.sky.com)
- [Strong winds and rain batter UK](#) (thisislondon.co.uk)
- [Strong winds and rain batter UK](#) (express.co.uk)
- [Strong winds and rain batter UK](#) (thisislondon.co.uk)
- [You: Torrential rain and winds batter UK](#) (guardian.co.uk)
- [70mph winds set to batter Britain](#) (thisislondon.co.uk)
- [Forecasters warn of 65mph gales](#) (thisislondon.co.uk)
- [Wales News: Summer on hold as Wales braced for strong winds and heavy rain](#) (walesonline.co.uk)
- [70mph winds and heavy rain set to batter Britain](#) (itv.com)
- [Gales poised to batter South West](#) (thisislondon.co.uk)

Date Created

June 2012

What is the 'European Monsoon'?

Description

The so-called 'European Monsoon' is not actually a monsoon at all. It is more an ill-defined phenomenon that generally applies to a return of westerly winds in June and July following a possible weakening in the late spring of the more typical westerly winds we see in the UK.

Meteorologists define a monsoon as a shift in the prevailing wind, caused by the heating differential between land and sea areas that brings a seasonal and often predictable period of significant rainfall. The Indian monsoon is the best known of these weather systems, and is critical for the inhabitants of the Indian subcontinent.

In Europe, and especially the UK, the predominant wind direction is westerly. These westerly winds are at their most frequent during winter but decrease in late spring. There is an ill-defined phenomenon that may see a return to more westerly winds once again, usually between late June and early July. The cause of the change of the general weather pattern is uncertain but may be linked to warming over continental Europe and it is this that has been coined as the 'European Monsoon' or perhaps more accurately the 'Return of the Westerlies'.

There is no evidence to associate this with increased rainfall during June and July or indeed the rather unsettled conditions we are seeing in the UK right now. If this was the case rainfall totals ought to be influenced with increased rainfall during early summer. Generally speaking rainfall totals in the east of England vary little month by month but there is a marked increase in winter rainfall in the west.

So is the wet weather we are seeing right now down to this phenomena? Well, this spring saw the wettest April for 100 years and a May that was pretty unsettled too. Therefore it is quite difficult to say that the 'westerly winds are returning' this year as they never really left us to start with.

Related articles

- [European monsoon brings 70mph winds, torrential rain and 40ft waves – Telegraph.co.uk](http://telegraph.co.uk) (telegraph.co.uk)
- [Weather: batten down the hatches, we're in for a 'European monsoon'](http://telegraph.co.uk) (telegraph.co.uk)

Date Created

June 2012

More wet weather to come

Description

The UK has seen some exceptionally wet weather over the past week and there is more rain to come this week

Severe Weather Warnings are in place today for parts of the south of England, with up to 80 mm of rain possible in most severely affected areas

Outbreaks of rain are likely on Tuesday and Wednesday, with the heaviest showers expected in western parts. Further unsettled weather is expected to push in from the west on Thursday.

This follows a week which has seen some very high rainfall totals across parts of the country.

Throughout this period the Met Office has been working round-the-clock to keep the public, partner agencies and emergency responders up-to-date with our latest forecasts.

Rob Varley, Operations and Services Director at the Met Office, said: "Our forecasts and severe weather warnings have helped the emergency services deliver the fantastic response we have seen over the past few days.

The media have also done a great job in widely publicising the key messages from our forecasts to make sure the public had the latest advice."

Simon Sheldon-Wilson, the Highways Agency's Traffic Management Director, said: "Severe wet weather has affected road users in the south, the east and the north west, but timely forecasts from the Met Office have enabled us to minimise disruption.

"With more wet weather to come this week, our advice to drivers is that wet roads can reduce visibility and increase the time it takes to stop by up to ten times, so leave plenty of time and space between you and the vehicle in front. If your vehicle starts to lose its grip in wet conditions, slow down by taking your foot off the accelerator. Try to avoid sudden braking or steering because this could cause you to skid and lose control."

Wales has seen some of the most disruptive weather, with persistent and heavy rain from Thursday through to Saturday causing flooding.

Our Severe Weather Warnings for the area forecast in excess of 80 mm of rain – close to the top totals seen, with Trawsgoed in Dyfed, Wales, seeing 102.0 mm from 10am on Thursday to 10am on Saturday. This is well over its usual entire monthly average for June of 78.5mm.

With more unsettled weather to come over the next week, the public are advised to stay up-to-date with the [latest forecasts](#) and [warnings](#) from the Met Office and [flood warnings from the Environment Agency](#).

Date Created

June 2012

Latest rainfall figures

Description

The latest rainfall figures – showing total rainfall from 7pm yesterday to 4pm today – are below. More rainfall is forecast, keep up to date with the latest [forecast](#) and [severe weather warnings](#).

Site name	Area	Precipitation amount (mm)
WIGGONHOLT	WEST SUSSEX	64.6
THORNEY ISLAND	WEST SUSSEX	61
SHOREHAM AIRPORT	WEST SUSSEX	58
CHARLWOOD	SURREY	50.6
ODIHAM	HAMPSHIRE	40.2
WISLEY	SURREY	39
OTTERBOURNE W WKS	HAMPSHIRE	38.4
ROTHAMSTED	HERTFORDSHIRE	37.4
KENLEY AIRFIELD	GREATER LONDON	36.8
HAMPSTEAD	GREATER LONDON	35.8
LONDON, ST JAMES'S PARK	GREATER LONDON	35.8
SOUTH FARNBOROUGH	HAMPSHIRE	34.6
KEW GARDENS	GREATER LONDON	31.6
MIDDLE WALLOP	HAMPSHIRE	31
WOBURN	BEDFORDSHIRE	30.8
ALICE HOLT LODGE	HAMPSHIRE	30.6
GOUDHURST	KENT	30.6
HIGH WYCOMBE, HQAIR	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	30.4
HEATHROW	GREATER LONDON	29.4
NORTHOLT	GREATER LONDON	29.4
WYCH CROSS	EAST SUSSEX	25.2
BENSON	OXFORDSHIRE	25.2
SWANAGE	DORSET	24.8

STOWE	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	23.4
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More [UK weather observations](#) on our website.

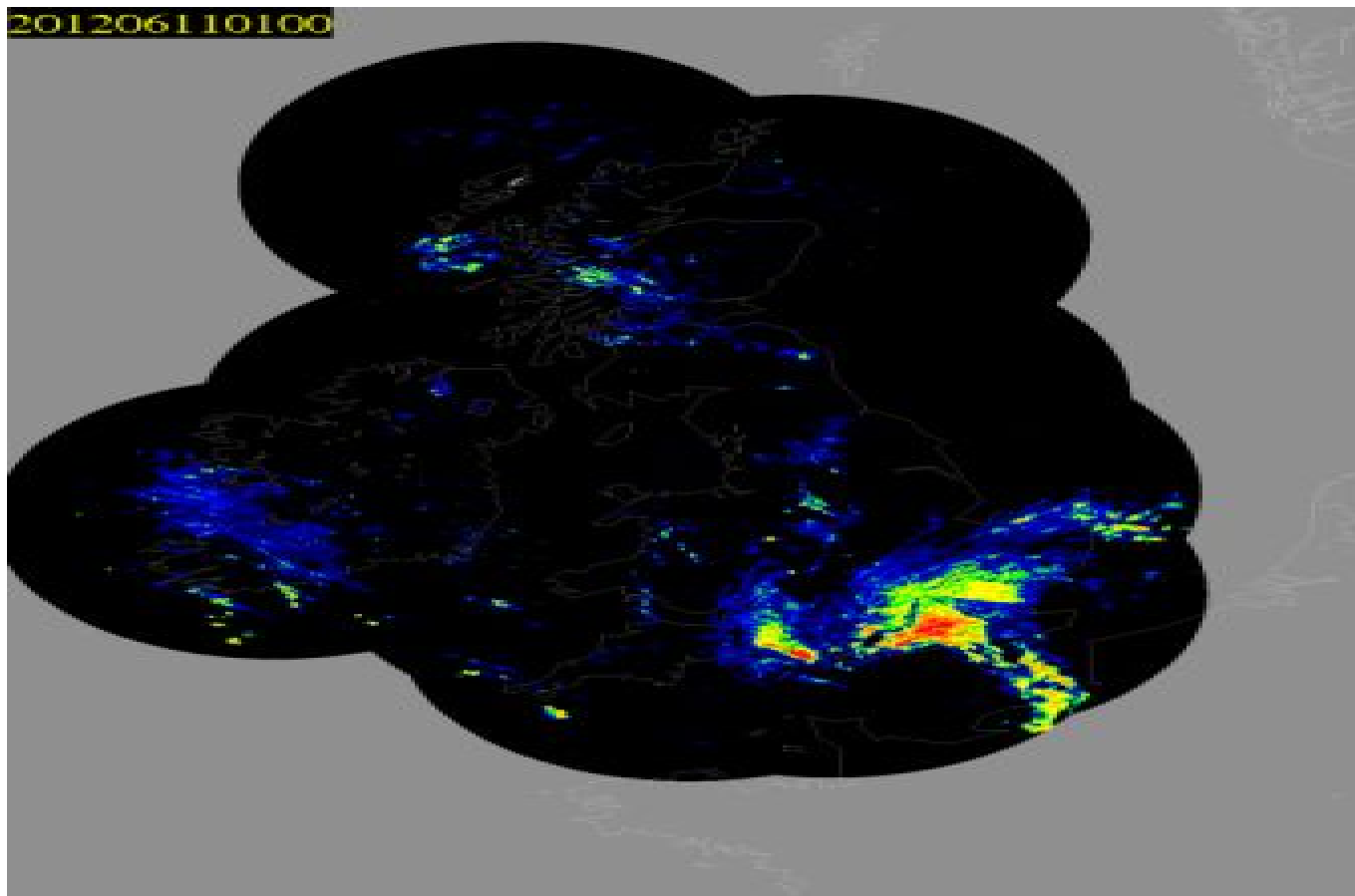
Date Created

June 2012

Updated rainfall totals: over a month's worth of rain falls in south east

Description

An area of low pressure across south-eastern areas of Britain has given some persistent and heavy rain over the last couple of days, with parts of Surrey and Sussex seeing more than a month's worth of rainfall in 36 hours.



Rain is still currently falling in parts of the South East and heavy showers are forecast for south west England and Wales. The Met Office currently has [severe weather warnings](#) in place for south west England, Wales and south east England for further heavy rain.

The table below shows rainfall totals from 7 pm Sunday evening until 7 am this morning. Wiggonholt in West Sussex has seen 72 mm of rain, almost one and a half times its monthly average for June of 52.9 mm.

Site name	Area	Precipitation amount (mm)
Wiggonholt	West Sussex	72
Thorney Island	West Sussex	68.6

Shoreham Airport	West Sussex	67.8
Swanage	Dorset	55.2
Charlwood	Surrey	55.2
Odiham	Hampshire	55
Otterbourne W Wks	Hampshire	53
Kenley Airfield	Greater London	49.2
Wisley	Surrey	47
Middle Wallop	Hampshire	45.8
London, St James's Park	Greater London	44.6
Rothamsted	Hertfordshire	44.4
South Farnborough	Hampshire	44
Hampstead	Greater London	43.2
Alice Holt Lodge	Hampshire	40.8
Boscombe Down	Wiltshire	40.4
High Wycombe, Hqair	Buckinghamshire	37.6
Goudhurst	Kent	37.4
Larkhil	Wiltshire	36.8
Woburn	Bedfordshire	36.2
Kew Gardens	Greater London	36.2
Benson	Oxfordshire	35.8

The jet stream is partly to blame for our unsettled conditions at the moment. It is currently flowing to the south of the UK, allowing a series of low pressure systems to spread in from the Atlantic.

There are many factors which can impact the notoriously changeable weather in the UK, so no single one on its own can be said to be fully responsible. However, it is possible to isolate contributing factors and, in this case, one of those is the northern hemisphere jet stream. This is a narrow band of fast flowing westerly winds (ie blowing from west to east) in the high atmosphere. This band moves around and also changes its track, from a fairly straight line to something more closely resembling a meandering river. Its position can, and does impact weather in the UK and other parts of the northern hemisphere.

Date Created

June 2012

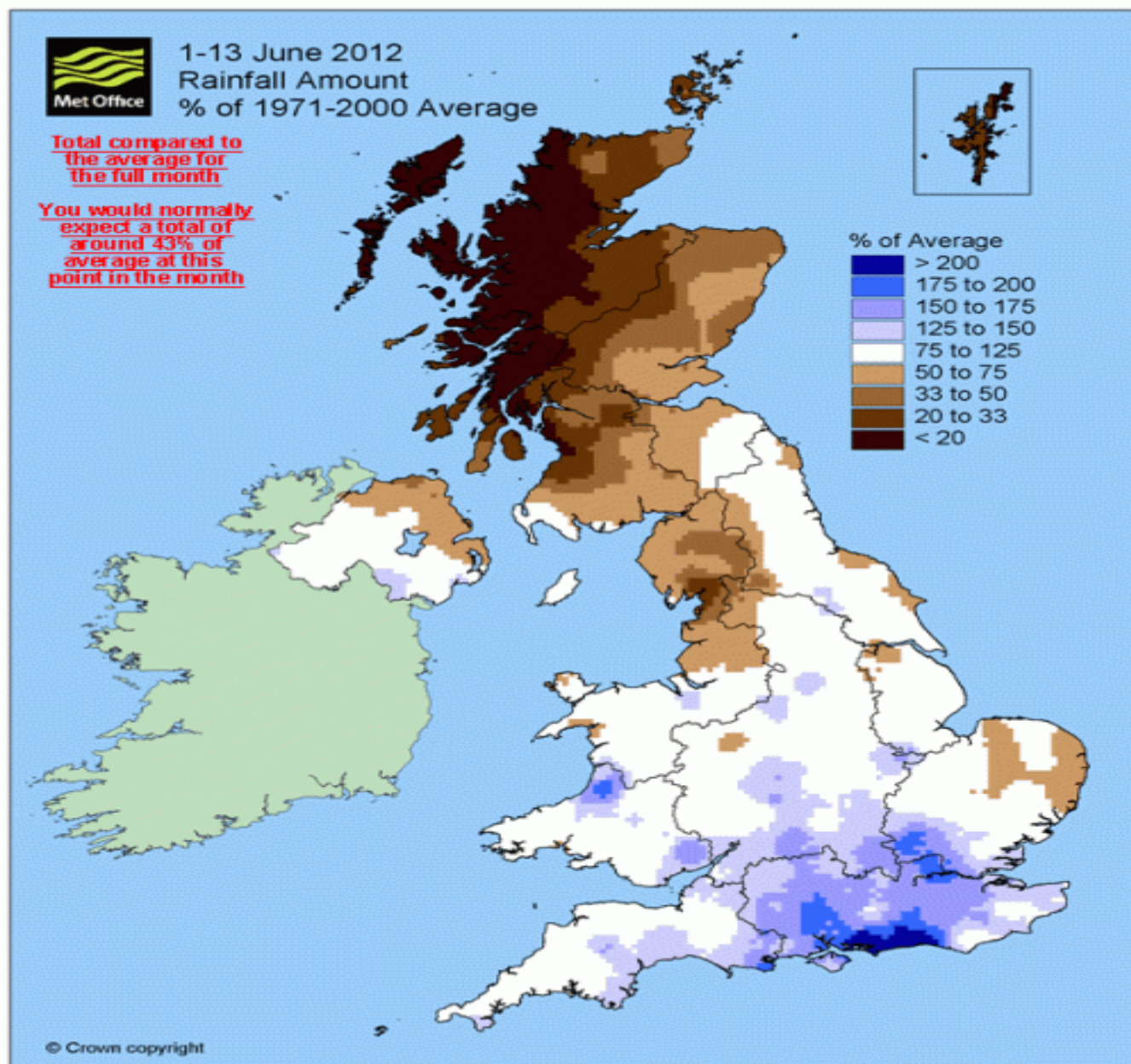
June so far: wetter and cooler than average

Description

Update: Provisional Met Office figures for the whole of June are now available at: [Met Office confirms wettest June in over a century](#)

The weather for most of the UK has been dominated by cool and unsettled conditions in the first half of June. A succession of frontal low-pressure systems have stalled over or close to the south of the country, bringing large amounts of rainfall in some areas, particularly in Wales and southern England.

Based on provisional mid-month stats, the beginning of June has been significantly wetter than average. The UK as a whole has had 55.5 mm of rain so far this month, 76% of the normal amount of rainfall expected for the month of June. Normally at this point in the month, we would expect to see around 43% of the monthly average.



However, the south of the UK has had considerably more. Thorney Island, Shoreham Airport and Wiggonholt – three stations in West Sussex – have all set new station records for June, with over 200% of their usual rainfall for June falling already.

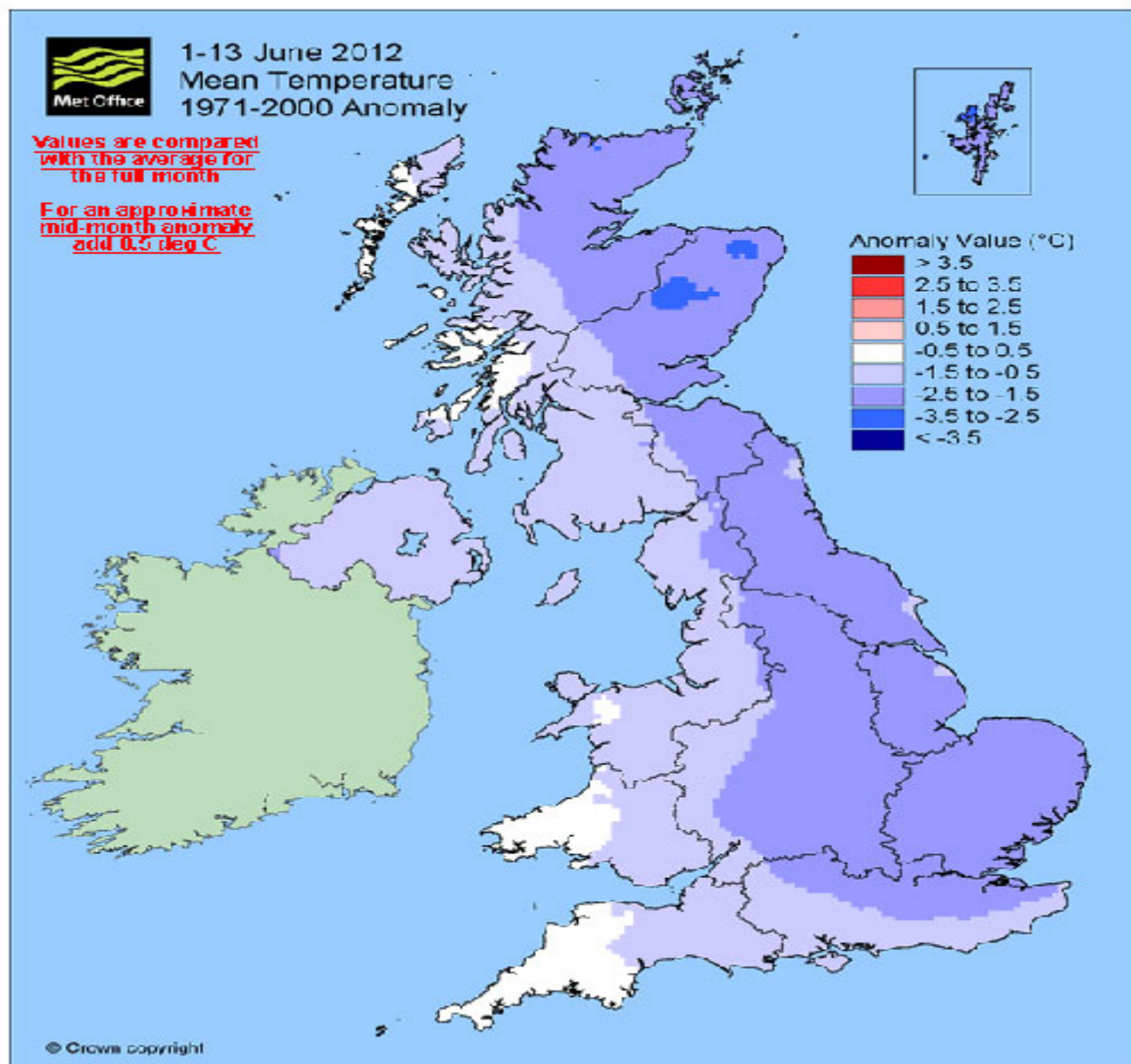
Station	Area	Total rainfall(mm)	Average rainfall for June (mm)	% of average so far this month
Thorney Island	West Sussex	113.6	48.5	234.2

Shoreham Airport	West Sussex	122.4	55.7	219.8
Wiggonholt	West Sussex	110	52.9	207.9
St James's Park	Greater London	102.4	52.3	195.8
Hampstead	Greater London	111.8	58.9	189.9
Middle Wallop	Hampshire	100.6	53.4	188.5
Swanage	Dorset	95.8	51.5	186
Rothamsted	Hertfordshire	109.8	60.4	181.8
Trawsgoed	Dyfed	141.2	78.5	180
Charlwood	Surrey	99	57.2	173.1

Further north, it's a different story, north-west Scotland in particular has actually been very dry. Resallach, in Sutherland, has only had 1 mm so far, just 0.9% of its average rainfall for June.

Station	Area	Total rainfall(mm)	Average rainfall for June (mm)	% of average
Resallach	Sutherland	1	111.5	0.9
Kinlochewe	Ross & Cromarty	2	103.8	1.9
Aultbea No 2	Ross & Cromarty	2.2	78.8	2.8
South Uist Range	Western Isles	2.8	55.9	5
Harris: Quidnish	Western Isles	3.6	80.2	4.5
Skye: Lusa	Western Isles	3.6	91.1	4
Loch Glascarnoch	Ross & Cromarty	4	82.6	4.8
Fair Isle	Shetland	4.6	46.8	9.8
Stornoway Airport	Western Isles	5.4	63.8	8.5
Dunstaffnage	Argyll	8.6	82.6	10.4

It's also been cooler than average for many, particularly in the east, as can be seen on the map below. Mean temperatures for the UK so far this month are 1.4 °C below the long-term June average although cloud cover has kept minimum temperatures closer to the seasonal norm, especially in the south-west.



Related articles

- [Definitely May-be an average month](http://metofficenews.wordpress.com) (metofficenews.wordpress.com)
- [April 2012 early statistics – above average rainfall](http://metofficenews.wordpress.com) (metofficenews.wordpress.com)
- [Updated rainfall totals: over a month's worth of rain falls in south east](http://metofficenews.wordpress.com) (metofficenews.wordpress.com)
- [Is this stormy weather unusual for June?](http://metofficenews.wordpress.com) (metofficenews.wordpress.com)

Date Created

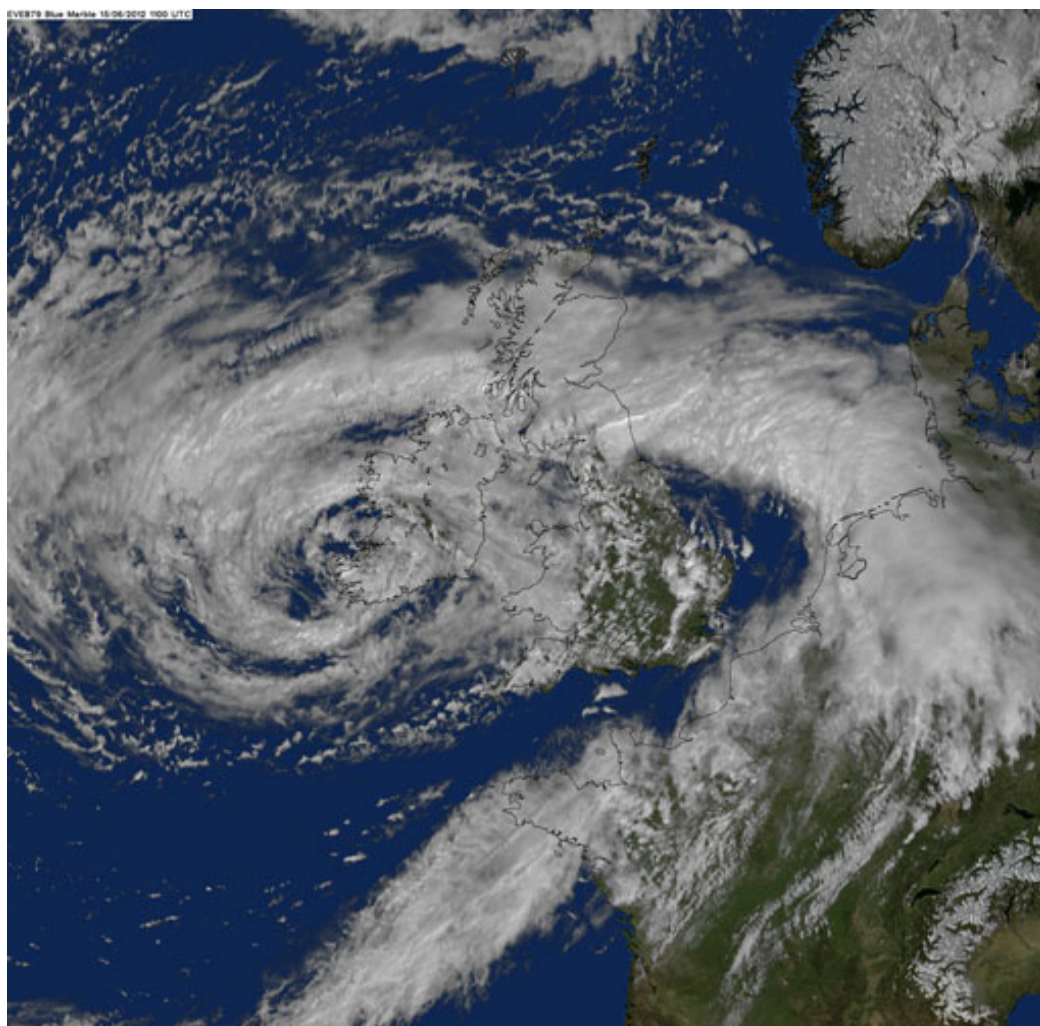
June 2012

Another wet and windy June weekend

Description

It has been [reported](#) that this weekend's weather is a once-in-50 year occurrence. In reality, last week's weather was much more significant with winds recorded up to 84 mph and rainfall of 127 mm in parts of Wales. Although we are in for some wet and windy weather for the next couple of days, by Sunday and for the start of the new working week the weather looks set to be quieter with more sunshine, fewer showers, lighter winds and a warmer feel.

We have seen some more wet and windy weather this week, with heavy and persistent rain affecting many areas last night. However, rainfall totals and wind speeds have not been as severe as they were this time last week, when we saw disruption in west Wales and, later, south-east England.



Satellite image 15 June 2012 showing wet and windy weather over the UK.

The current warnings in place for Wales, the Midlands, northern England and Northern Ireland may

seem to [last for a long time](#) as they are out for a 48 hour period. However, as [Met Office Severe Weather Warnings](#) are based on the impacts of the weather, it is important to ensure the public are aware of how long the worst of the weather will last. The longest warning issued by the Met Office was for the very cold snap in the winter of 2010/2011, where much of the UK was blanketed in yellow warnings for Ice untreated roads and pavements. These warnings were in place for as many as five days in a row.

Date Created

June 2012

Brighter weather will lead to higher pollen counts

Description

The recent unsettled weather has kept pollen levels much lower than normal for the time of year. However, this week the weather is expected to be drier, brighter and a little more settled than recent weeks and as a result we expect to see a rise in the amount of pollen.

Pollen levels, which are mostly from grass pollen at this time of year, could reach high or even very high in central and some southern areas.

People with hay fever should keep up to date with the pollen forecast this week, which is available on the Met office website and is sponsored by Benadryl®. The pollen forecast uses our latest weather forecast information and combines this with pollen readings from across the UK.

There are millions of hay fever sufferers across the UK, and the Met Office forecasts provide vital information to help reduce the impact pollen has on their health.

Health Manager at the Met Office, Patrick Sachon said: "Following the rain we saw in April and the rain over the last few weeks, grass has grown well, more than last year, when it was much drier. This is therefore expected to cause higher levels of grass pollen than last year. "The Met Office forecast for the next couple of days is for the UK to be drier and a little more settled than of late in most areas. Occasional showers are likely but with plenty of bright or sunny spells and temperatures in the high teens or low twenties in some parts. This will lead to much higher pollen counts than in recent weeks. This means that those who suffer from hay fever will need to keep an eye on the pollen count over the next few days."

The [pollen forecast](#) is part of the wide range of weather-related services offered by the Met Office, which also include the UV index and [Heat Health watch](#).

Find out more about the [Met Office pollen forecast](#).

Date Created

June 2012

Get your weekend weather on our apps and events calendar this summer



This

weekend is the first weekend of summer (based on the astronomical calendar, meteorologically speaking, summer started on the 1 June) and a number of events are taking place including:

- [Isle of Wight Festival](#),
- [Eden Sessions](#),
- [Radio 1 Hackney Weekend](#),
- [Royal Highland Show](#) and
- [Yeovilton Airday](#).

The forecast for the weekend is currently for cooler, windier and much more unsettled weather, with showers and persistent rain at times. There will be some limited sunnier spells, although mainly in the south and east. Where ever you are headed this weekend, you can keep up to date with your local weather on our mobile app for [Android](#) or [iPhone](#), or our [mobile website](#). There's [over 5000 forecast locations](#) available including beaches, tourist attractions and national parks.

Visit our [events calendar](#) for up-to-date weather for major events taking part this summer, from [Wimbledon](#) to the [Olympics](#).

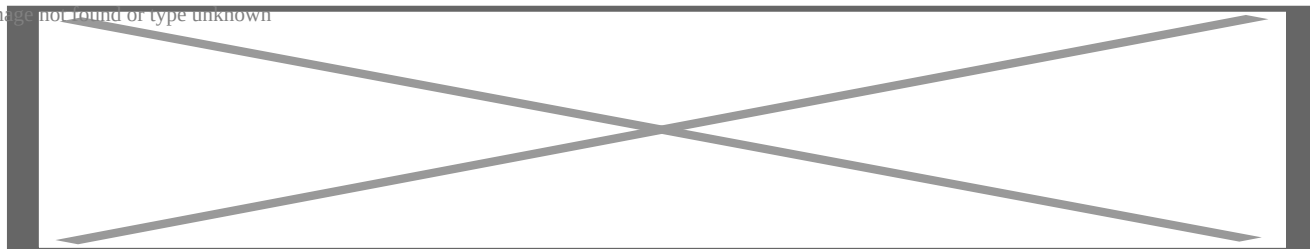
Date Created

June 2012

Wimbledon weather 2012 – updated July 2018

Description

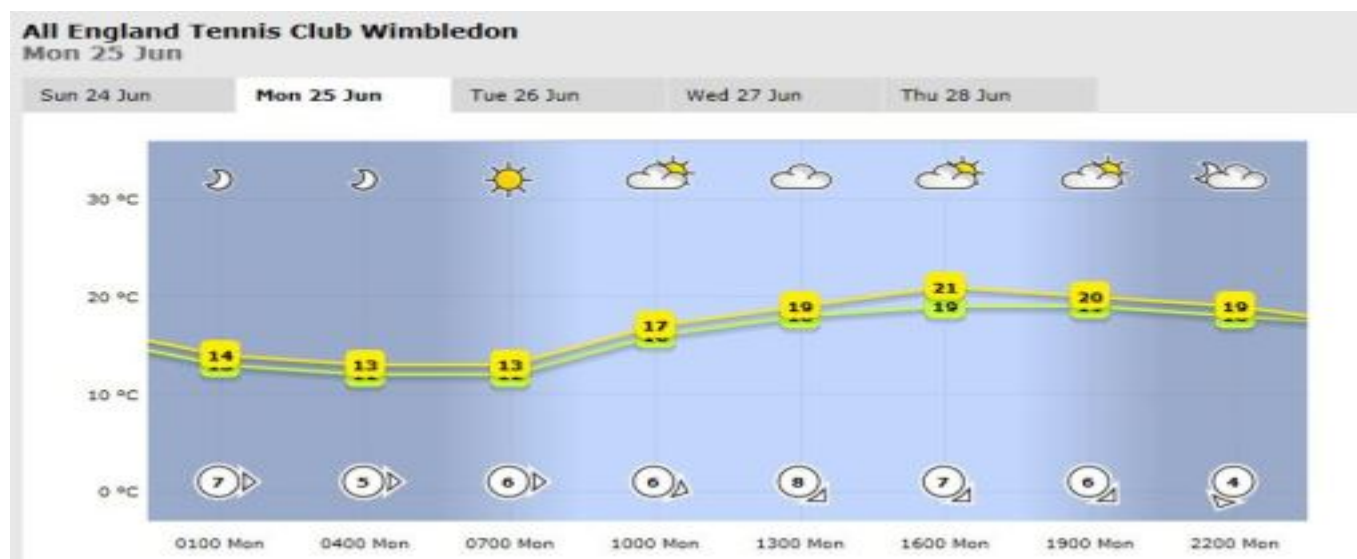
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The

[Wimbledon Championship](#) gets underway next week, and all eyes will be turning to the sky above SW19 as Wimbledon weather watching take hold. The current outlook suggests that after the wet weather over the weekend it will turn a little drier at least for the start of the Championships with a mixture of broken cloud, bright or sunny spells and only a small risk of showers disrupting play. Like this week in the London area, temperatures will also be in the low 20's Celsius as well.

The latest forecast from the [Met Office](#) is that it will be feeling warmer on Monday with some spells of sunshine and only light winds. It should remain dry throughout, with only a very small chance of a light afternoon shower disrupting play. Maximum Temperature 22 °C.



To keep up with the latest weather at the championships, visit our dedicated [Wimbledon](#) page.

Forecasting at Wimbledon

Like [last year](#), Met Office forecasters will be stationed on site for the duration of the tournament. Our forecasters will combine the latest scientific knowledge and technology from the Met Office's headquarters in Exeter with on the ground weather reading and assessment. This means that if it's drizzling on the ground, the on site forecaster can then access information from the Met Office's arsenal of radars, forecasts and mapping systems to find out which direction it's moving in the wider area and know whether it will affect play, and for how long.

Even though the new retractable roof means that play on centre court can continue when it's raining, the weather will still impact on play on the other courts and Met Office forecasts are still used to determine when to close the roof and, perhaps even more importantly, when it is safe to open it again.

Tim Hewson, one of the on-site Met Office forecasters for last year's tournament, said: "We can't stop the rain from falling, but we can help the referee organise the tournament around the weather, so that spectators get to watch as much tennis as possible, and so that players don't risk injury by playing on slippery courts."

In the video below, Chris Tubbs, who will be on site forecasting this year, talks through the process of forecasting the weather for the championships.

Wimbledon weather facts – **please note these statistics have been clarified and updated in July 2018**

We use Kew for years to 1980 and Kew Gardens from 1981 onward as reference for Wimbledon. For the 1976 tournament this was 30.8°C average max, 16.6°C average min, and 23.7°C average mean.



- The warmest Wimbledon Championship on record was 1976, where temperatures averaged at 25.4 C. **This is the monthly mean max for all of June 1976 for Heathrow.**
- In 1997, 118.3 mm of rain fell during the championships, making it the wettest Wimbledon on record. **This is the monthly accumulation of rainfall for all of June 1997 at Greenwich**

-
- Perhaps rather unfairly, Wimbledon has always been associated with bad weather and particularly with rain. But actually play has only been totally rained off 32 times in 125 years.
 - Most years, some rain does fall during the championships, however there have been seven years where rain did not interrupt play at all – 1931, 1976, 1977, 1993 and 1995, 2009 and 2010.

In this video, Johnny Perkins, from the [All England Club](#), explains how the weather affects their planning for the championships and the ideal weather they hope for.

Date Created

June 2012

Heavy rainfall across parts of the UK

Description

The past two days have seen some exceptional rainfall across the UK, with the heaviest and most persistent rain falling in the North West of England, parts of Northern Ireland and parts of southern Scotland.

Across this area there have been fairly widespread rainfall totals of about 25-50mm of rain in the past 24 hours – from 10am yesterday (22 June) to 10am this morning.

However, some spots saw even more rain in the same period. Here are the wettest places in the past 24 hours:

Blencathra, Cumbria – 93.8mm

Keswick, Cumbria – 88.6mm

Stonyhurst, Lancashire – 74.4mm

Levens Hall, Cumbria – 58.2mm

Morecambe, Lancashire – 57mm

Walney Island, Cumbria – 55.8mm

Preston, Lancashire – 54.8mm

Myerscough, Lancashire – 52.2mm

Bingley, West Yorkshire – 50.2mm

This is in line with the yellow and amber Severe Weather Warnings issued by the Met Office for yesterday's rain, which forecast 25-50mm of rain across a wide area and up to 100mm possible in some spots.

Rainfall has eased this morning, however heavy rain is expected to sweep in across the UK later this evening and into tomorrow morning and the Met Office has issued further weather warnings.

You can stay up to date with the latest situation by looking at the [warnings pages](#) on our website and by staying up to date with our [forecasts](#).

Later on Sunday the weather is expected to improve, giving way to a drier and brighter start to the week with sunny spells and improving temperatures.

Date Created

June 2012

Is this the wettest June on record?

Description

Update: Provisional Met Office figures for the whole of June are now available at: [Met Office confirms wettest June in over a century](#)

We all know that, so far, it has been a very wet June in many parts of the UK – but just how wet has it been?

Met Office figures show that, up to the 24th of the month, the UK had seen 122.3 mm of rain – ranking as the third wettest June since records began in 1910 and well over one-and-a-half times the UK average.

So this month is currently just behind the second wettest June in 1912, which saw 124.5 mm of rain, and a little way off the wettest June in 2007, which saw 136.2 mm.

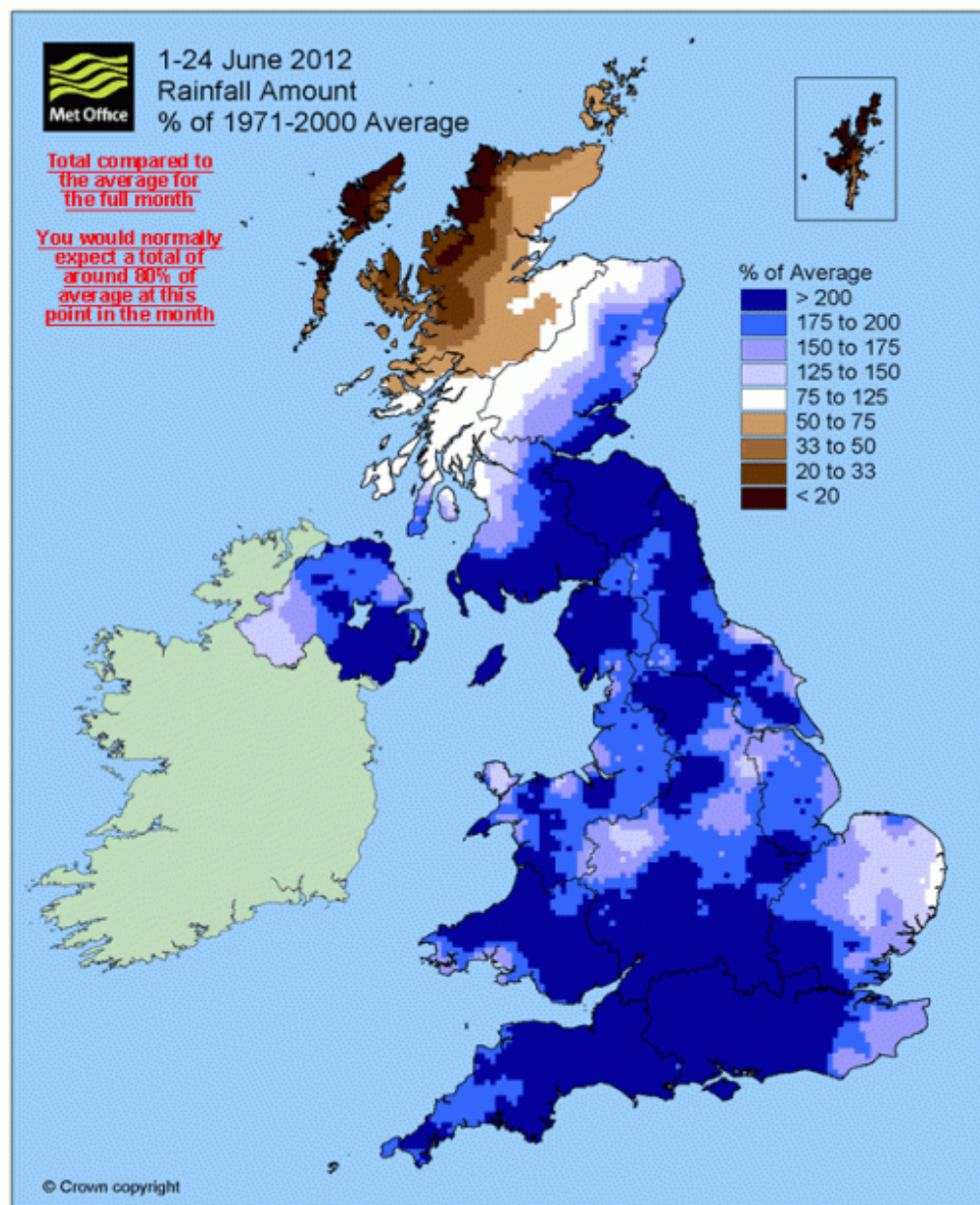
Clearly there are several more days to go and there is some rainfall in the forecast, so not possible to categorically say exactly where the month will finish in the overall records – however it is safe to say it has been a disappointingly wet month.

It's important to note the rainfall this month hasn't been evenly spread over the UK. Some areas have seen a great deal of rain, with 52 observation sites breaking record rainfall totals.

Not all of these records are significant as some of stations only have a very short history – for example, Usk in Monmouthshire has only been taking measurements for one year. However, at the other extreme, Otterbourne in Hampshire has been operating for 119 years.

While some areas have already seen record rainfall, others are lingering close to their all-time June minimum. Six stations are currently still below their lowest June rainfall total – but this could change by the end of the month.

What is interesting is that most of the drier stations are in the far north and west of the UK – areas which we would normally expect to see the most rainfall.



Map showing rainfall up to the 24 June 2012 compared to the 1971-2000 average. Many parts of the country have seen double their normal amount, while the far north west has seen much less than usual.

This illustrates the story behind this month's weather, as the rain-bearing low pressure systems moving in from the Atlantic which normally track to the north of the UK have been taking a much more southerly route, soaking parts of the south while the far north west has remained unusually dry.

One of the main reasons for this is the position of the jet stream. This is a narrow band of fast flowing westerly winds (ie blowing from west to east) high in the atmosphere.

This band moves around and changes its track, and where it sits can impact the UK's weather. When it

flows to the north of the country it can guide low pressure systems away from the UK (but they often clip the far north west of the country as they pass by).

Throughout this June the jet stream has had a much more southerly track, allowing those low pressure systems – with their wind and rain – to come straight over the UK to bring heavy rain to more southern areas while the north west remains relatively unscathed.

You can find out more about the [jet stream in our YouTube video](#).

Date Created

June 2012

Met Office in the News: “Tropical Storms to hit Wimbledon”?

Description

There have been several articles in the Daily Express over the last couple of days reporting [‘Summer is on the way at last’](#) with temperatures set to reach 34 Celsius this week and [‘Tropical storms set for Wimbledon’](#).

These headlines are unfortunately wide of the mark and rather misleading, both by implying that hot and sunny weather is on the way and that Wimbledon will be hit by tropical storms.

Although the Met Office has spoken to the Daily Express, the forecasts featured in the stories have not come from the Met Office, but from an independent forecaster.

The Met Office forecast for this week is for a couple of days of warm, humid and rather cloudy weather across much of the UK, with temperatures reaching 26 or 27 Celsius in any sunshine. For more detail you can find the latest weather forecast on our [website](#).

It is our understanding that the temperatures of 34 deg C referenced in the articles are actually feels like temperatures taken from the website of an independent forecaster rather than actual air temperature. This is not made clear within the article and is potentially misleading.

The inference – through the lack of reference to the original source of the forecasts – that these forecasts have come from the Met Office is very misleading for the public, and potentially damages the reputation not only of the Met Office, but the wider weather forecasting community.

The Met Office is a world leader in meteorological science and our forecasts are recognised the world over as some of the best in the world. We are proud to be trusted to give the best possible guidance on the weather by the public and we report the weather exactly as it is.

Date Created

June 2012

Dust storm brings Saharan sand to the UK

Description

Many people across parts of the UK have noticed a layer of light dust on their cars or other surfaces over the past couple of days, but how did it get here?

A big dust storm in the Sahara, around 2,000 miles away, is to blame.

Late last week the storm swept up a large amount of sand and dust from the western Sahara up into the atmosphere.

It then spread westwards out over the Atlantic before getting caught up in southerly winds, dragging it north over Spain before it arrived over the UK mixed up in the warm and humid air which has brought thunder storms and heavy rain to the country.

The dust can get caught up in the rain droplets in clouds, which then fall to the ground. When the water evaporates, a thin layer of dust is left on surfaces, like cars.

Many people noticed this in the South West of the UK yesterday, with the dust then spreading north and east overnight to bring it to a much wider area.

Paul Hutcheon, Deputy Chief Forecaster at the Met Office, said: "We usually see this happen several times a year, particularly in summer when you get these big dust storms in the western Sahara and the southerly winds to bring that dust here.

"This event was a very well-marked example, as you can clearly see the dust as it moves from the Sahara to the UK in the satellite imagery."

The satellite animation above shows the dust as a bright pink blob over Africa at the start of the sequence, which then moves north over to the UK – initially arriving over the South West, but then moving north and east. You can clearly see the dust-laden airmass of warm and humid air, with a marked boundary to the clear air from a cold front to the west.

Date Created

June 2012

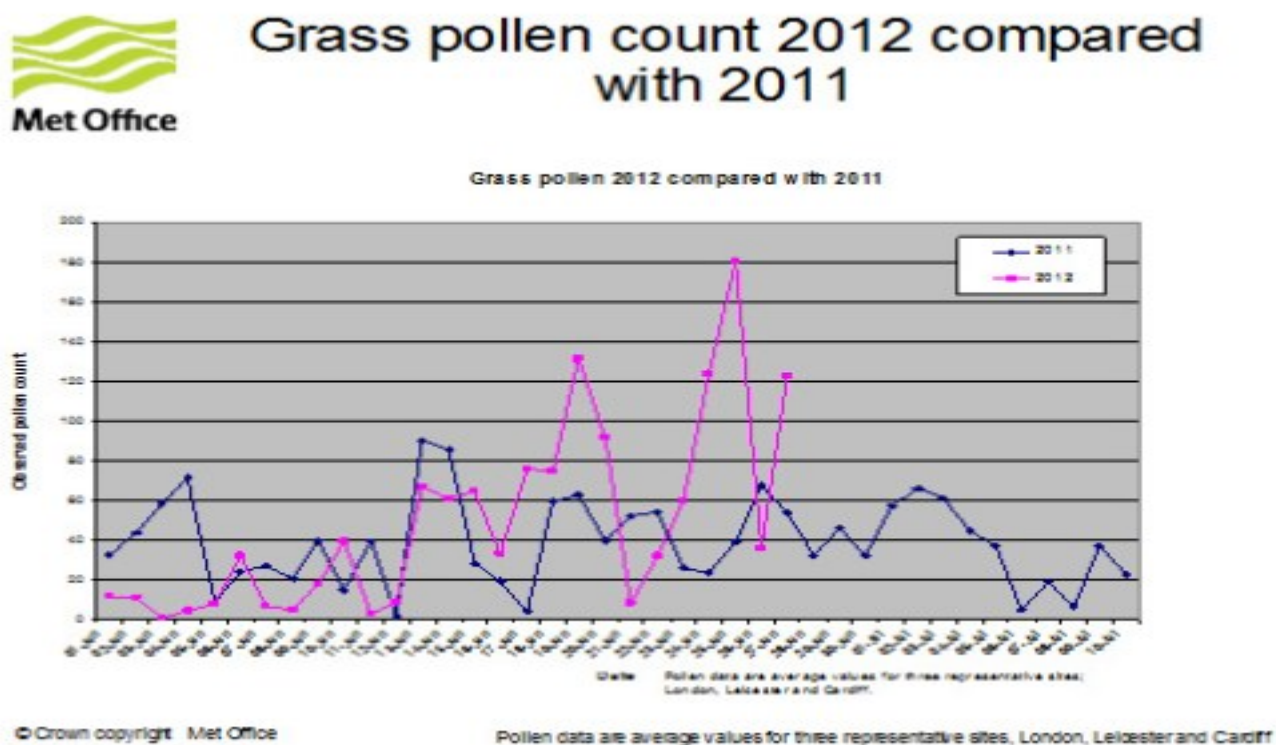
Wet weather has increased pollen count

Description

In May the [Met Office warned that the wet weather we had seen in April was promoting strong grass growth and that this could lead to high grass pollen counts later in the year.](#)

Over recent days, [observed pollen counts from the Met Office managed pollen monitoring network](#), have been very high on dry days at a number of stations, especially across parts of central and southern England. As we move into the weekend pollen counts are expected to remain at moderate to high levels in many areas, depending on the local weather, with further very high counts where the weather is dry.

The graph below shows the difference between this years and last years pollen count:



Patrick Sachon, Health Manager at the Met Office said: "In May we warned that the wet weather could lead to a high grass pollen count during the summer. As expected we have seen some very high pollen counts when the weather has been good. Further high counts are expected during drier and sunnier interludes. We would therefore recommend that hay fever sufferers do all they can to equip themselves to manage their symptoms."

Date Created

June 2012

Met Office figures confirm disappointing June

Description

Update: Provisional Met Office figures for the whole of June are now available at: [Met Office confirms wettest June in over a century](#)

Provisional figures from the Met Office to the 27th of June show it has been a disappointing month on all fronts – with many areas being exceptionally wet, very dull and cooler than average.

Currently it is the second wettest June on record for the UK with 130.1 mm of rainfall – just 6 mm off the 2007 total, which was the wettest June in the records which go back to 1910.

It is already the wettest June on record for Wales, with 186.3 mm of rain beating the previous record of 183.1 mm set in 1998. England and Northern Ireland are currently second wettest in the records.

Looking at the figures for the whole of Scotland, it has been a relatively unremarkable month, but there have been big contrasts. North Western areas have seen an exceptionally dry month, while southern and eastern parts have joined the rest of the UK in the wet conditions.

It should be noted that totals for this month so far do not include the heavy rainfall yesterday, and with more rain in the forecast it is likely more records will fall by the end of the month.

It may not be surprising that, with so much rain, sunshine hours have been well down across the UK. There have been 104.2 hours of sunshine so far, just 62% of the long term average (from 1971-2000).

With some sunshine in the forecast, the totals will increase, but it is likely to be one of the duller Junes on record – but it's not possible to say where it will finish. The current dullest June on record was in 1987, with 115.8 hours of sunshine.

Temperatures have also been below average, with a mean temperature of 11.9 C (0.7 C below average) making for the coolest June since 1991 in the UK.

One of the main reasons for the wet and dull weather so far this month has been the position of the jet stream, which has been much further south than usual. This has meant that rain-bearing Atlantic low pressure systems have been over or close to the UK for the whole month.

	max temp		min temp		mean temp		sunshine duration		rainfall	
	Actual	Diff from 71-00 avg	Actual	Diff from 71-00 avg	Actual	Diff from 71-00 avg	Actual	% of 71-00 avg	Actual	% of 71-00 avg
Regions										
UK	15.5	-1.3	8.6	0.2	11.9	-0.7	104.2	62	130.1	17

Eng	16.7	-1.4	9.5	0.4	13	-0.6	99.8	56	131.8	20
Wales	15.8	1	9.4	0.8	12.5	-0.2	106.1	62	186.3	21
Scot	13.6	-1.3	6.8	0.4	10	-0.9	113.1	73	108.1	12
N Ire	15.2	-1.3	8.3	0	11.6	-0.7	91.2	60	151.3	21
Eng & Wales	16.5	-1.4	9.5	0.4	12.9	-0.6	100.7	57	139.3	21
Eng N	15.6	-1.4	8.7	0.2	12	-0.7	85	51	143.5	20
Eng S	17.2	-1.4	10	0.5	13.5	-0.6	107.6	58	125.6	21

Date Created

June 2012

Evolution of Thursday's thunderstorms

Description

A series of intense thunderstorms brought exceptionally severe weather across parts of the UK yesterday, causing flash flooding and disruption in many places.

As the storms tracked across the country our observation sites picked up some very heavy hourly rainfall totals, with Scampton in Lincolnshire seeing 28.4 mm falling in an hour.

Several other sites saw hourly totals in excess of 20 mm. This led to flash flooding of properties, roads, and landslides in places.

More than 111,000 lightning strokes were also detected across Europe, with more than 1,000 detected over the UK in a 5 minute period at the peak of activity yesterday.

Hail stones 'the size of golf balls' also caused damage in Leicestershire, according to media reports.

The storms were borne out of hot, humid air which had tracked up from the Azores far to the south in the Atlantic. This air mass tracked up on southerly winds, moving over Spain before reaching the UK.

As a result, much of the country saw warm and muggy conditions, with the temperature reaching 28.4 C at St James's Park, Central London.

The heat and moisture in the air were enough to cause thunderstorms, but the really intense storms were formed as an Atlantic weather front moved in from the west.

As it 'collided' with the warm and humid air mass, air rapidly rose to create towering cumulonimbus storm clouds which were laden with water, and ripe for developing hail, thunder and lightning.

This led to several distinct lines of thunderstorms developing along the boundary where the two air masses met.

As shown in the radar sequences below, one line originated in the Cardiff area of south Wales in the early morning. This moved in an east-north-east direction across Worcestershire, Shropshire, the West Midlands and Leicestershire to clear Lincolnshire by late afternoon.

A second line of thunderstorms reached the Lancashire coast around late morning and moved in a NE direction to reach the Newcastle area later in the day, clearing the north east coast by late evening.

There were also torrential downpours across parts of Northern Ireland and western Scotland. Southern parts of England and Wales saw relatively little rain and periods of warm sunshine.

Date Created

June 2012